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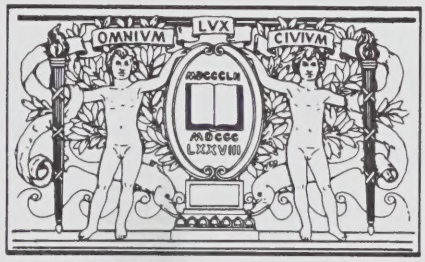

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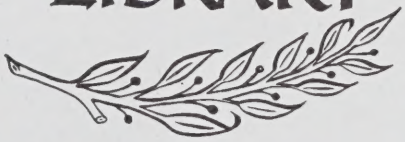

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ACTION FOR BOSTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC.

George Bennett
Executive Director

7. NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE: NORTH END

ABCD Planning and Evaluation Dept.
Robert M. Coard, Director

September, 1967

North End
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ACTION FOR BOSTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Planning and Evaluation Department

INTRODUCTION TO NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILES

Among the most important units in Boston's War on Poverty are the city's low-income neighborhoods, all of which share certain common problems but each of which has a unique set of characteristics distinguishing it from the rest of the city. Just as the various neighborhoods differ in their physical appearance, so do their populations differ, in age, in race, and in a whole range of characteristics. Common to people of all the low-income neighborhoods are such problems as unemployment, low educational attainment and poor health. The relative importance of these problems varies, however, among the neighborhoods and reflects the different characteristics of their residents.

Not only do Boston's neighborhoods differ from one another in their social aspects but also in the amount and quality of resources which are now being used to meet the needs of their residents. While some neighborhoods receive relatively satisfactory services in certain problem areas, the services in these areas are clearly inadequate in other neighborhoods. In all the neighborhoods certain significant gaps between needs and resources are apparent and the coordination of various efforts to resolve the problems of the poor is weak and sporadic.

An essential step in developing effective strategies for lessening the incidence of poverty, on a neighborhood as well as on a city-wide basis, is collecting and analyzing information on the conditions contributing to and resulting from poverty and on the scope of current efforts to better these conditions. By examining needs and evaluating the impact of current services, it is possible to make rational recommendations for the re-allocation of existing resources and to justify requests for additional funds to ensure that services be provided with maximum effectiveness and more closely approximate the real need.

This neighborhood analysis is intended to provide such data on needs and resources in a form which makes it readily understood for general information purposes as well as providing the framework for an eventual neighborhood cooperative community planning, programming and budgeting process. It is designed so that ot may be revised as necessary on the basis of suggestions from those who use it and so that it may be updated and refined annually as ABCD's computerized information system and eventual community data banks feed back improved data on yearly changes.

The analysis, which is devided into eight major sections for reference, begins with a discussion of the characteristics of the population of the neighborhood, including total numbers, income, age, sex and racial composition. The needs of the neighborhood's population are

ACTION FOR BOSTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Planning and Evaluation Department

then outlined under such headings as health, education, employment and economic development. On the basis of preferences expressed by representatives of the neighborhood community these needs are ranked in order of importance as are the groups to which the community feels programs should be addressed. Services in the neighborhood, both those provided through ABCD and by other agencies, are catalogued in categories roughly corresponding to the need categories, and those programs funded by OEO are briefly evaluated. Finally, the overall system of efforts to meet problems in the neighborhood is examined and recommendations for changes are presented.

The information included in this analysis is presented as much as possible in the form of hard statistics, identified by source and date. Where the information involved subjective judgments the person or group expressing the opinion is also identified. In cases in which special circumstances were present or where discrepancies of fact or opinion existed, explana ory comments are included. Graphic illustrations to clarify important facts and trends are now being prepared and will be inserted into the analysis at a later date.

The neighborhood analysis is meant to be used by a number of persons or groups for those purposes for which they feel it may be most helpful. Within the framework of the planning, programming and budgeting system being developed at ABCD, the analysis may serve three important functions. First, it is a basic document for neighborhood social planning, both on a comprehensive and on an individual project basis. Second, it will provide central ABCD staff with information essential to the design and funding of plans and programs which affect the neighborhood as a part of the broader city system. Third, it may help to provide a common language for discussion and cooperation between ABCD and Neighborhood Area Planning Action Councils (APACs) on the one hand, and outside agencies on the other. Using the neighborhood analysis as a starting point, all community agencies concerned with the problems of poverty may be encouraged to work out a joint planning process.

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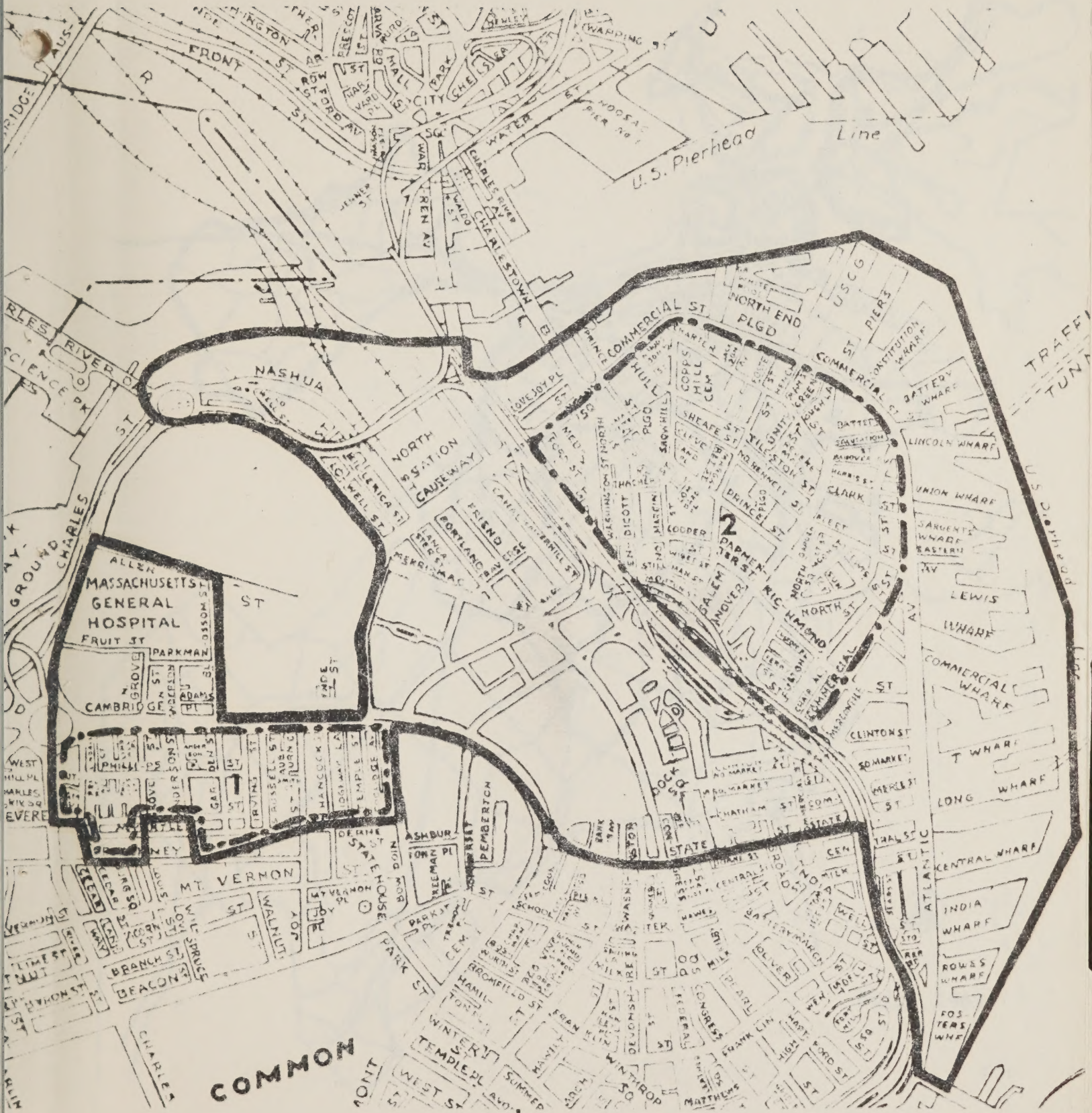

NORTH END – WEST END TARGET NEIGHBORHOOD

abcd planning department
july, 1967

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ABCD TARGET NEIGHBORHOODS

1 Allston-Brighton
2 Charlestown
3 East Boston
4 South Boston
5 Columbia Point
6 Dorchester
7 Roxbury-North Dorchester
8 Jamaica Plain
9 Parker Hill-Fenway
10 North End
11 South End

ACTION FOR BOSTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC.

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE: North End

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		PAGE
I.	GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION:	
	A. Total Population	1
	B. Income	2
	C. Age Composition	2
	D. Sex Composition	3
	E. Racial Composition	3
II.	NEEDS OF THE POPULATION:	5
III.	LISTING AND RANKING OF TARGET GROUPS AND NEEDS	
	A. Target Groups	10
	B. Needs	11
IV.	INVENTORY OF 1966 PROGRAMS - COMPONENTS BY FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES	
	A. Community Organization	13
	B. Child Development	14
	C. Education	14
	D. Employment	15
	E. Economic Development	16
	F. Health	16
	G. Social Services	16
	H. Recreation	16
V.	INVENTORY OF 1966 PROGRAMS - FUNCTIONAL SYSTEMS	
	A. Community Organization	18
	B. Education	18
	C. Employment	18
	D. Recreation	18
VI.	EVALUATION OF 1966 PROGRAMS FUNDED BY OEO (1. Administrative Efficiency (2. Direct Effect on Persons Served (3. "Multiplier Effects"	
	A. Senior Citizens' Program	19
	B. Community Organization	19
	C. Employment Program	20

TABLE OF CONTENTS, CONTINUED

		Page
VII.	EVALUATION OF TOTAL PROGRAM SYSTEM	
	A. Effective Linkage Between Programs	22
	B. Program System Emphasis	22
VIII.	RECOMMENDATIONS	
	A. Community Organization	23
	B. Employment Program	23

NORTH END

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

I. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION:

A. Total Population:

1. Number of Persons Living in Area: 21,711 (1960 Census)

For the purpose of this report, the North End has been divided into sections; i.e., North End and West End.

There is a 1/3 higher percent of elderly citizens in the West End.

Total population of the area has been declining considerably. In 1950, 40,058 persons lived in the North End. Population declined 45.8% since 1950.

2. Number of Families: 3,400 (Approximately)

3. Number of Families in Public Housing: NONE

4. Number of Unrelated Individuals-Not in Institutions: NO ESTIMATE AVAILABLE

There are about 2,000 sailors in the Coast Guard area who are not included in the total population

B. Income:

1. Median Family Income: $4,815. (1960 Census)

2. Number of Families with Income Under $3,000: 850 (1960 Census)

Percent of Total: 25%

C. Age Composition:

1. Number of Pre-School Children (0-5 Years): 940 (1950 Census)

Percent of Total Population: 4.3%

2. Number of School-age Children (6-15 Years): 1,815 (1960 Census)

Percent of Total Population: 9.3%

3. Number of In-School Youths: (16-21 Years) 1,047

Percent of Total Population: 8%

4. Number of Out-of-school Youths (16-21 Years): 252

Percent of Total Population 1.1%

5. Number of Adults (22-64 Years): 6,776 (1960 Census)

   Percent of Total Population: 31.2%

6. Number of Elderly (65 Years and over): 2,795 (1960 Census)

   Percent of Total Population: 12.8%

As noted in the 1965 proposal, the number of elderly people in the North End is increasing as younger couples and individuals migrate from the area.

There are a high number of elderly persons in the West End section (1,100).

D. Sex Composition: (1960 Census)

		MALES	FEMALES
1.	Pre-school Children (0-5 Years)	-	-
2.	School-age Children (6-15 Years)	909	806
3.	In-school Youths (16-21 Years)	432	508
4.	Out-of-school Youths (16-21 Years)	149	103
5.	Adults (22-64 Years)	2,966	3,810

E. Racial Composition:

1. Number of Whites: All (21,711-1960 Census)

   Percent of Total Population 100%

As described in the 1965 proposal: "almost three-quarters of the residents are of foreign stock with 42.3% of this group being foreign born and considered as immigrants. 71.2% of those of foreign stock are of Italian extraction."

2. Number of Negroes: NONE

   Percent of Total Population 0 %

3. Number of Puerto Ricans: 26

   Percent of Total Population: Insignificant

4. Number of Other Non-whites NONE

   Percent of Total Population: 0%

II. NEEDS OF THE POPULATION:

A. Community Organization:

Area Coordinator indicates that Community Organization is "needed badly" in the area. She goes on to say that "the nationality (Italian) is not particularly interested and only organizes when something interrupts their normal activities or imposes a threat to their way of living."

The biggest need in this respect is organizing existing neighborhood agencies, groups and clubs, and motivating and directing them toward community interest and self-improvement.

B. Child Development:

1. Number of Pre-school children in low-income families: 510

C. Education:

School-age Children:

1. Number of School-age Children needing Supplemental Tutoring, etc.: 780

2. Number of Children below City-wide Grade Achievement Levels: 399

   This was an estimate made by Area Liaison. It is this group which the tutorial program is primarily aimed toward.

3. 1966 Dropout Rates: 10%

Adults:

1. Number of Adults Needing Supplemental Education: 2,778

2. Number of Adults who have not completed High School: 3,245

   The figure above includes all the aged in the North End area.

3. Number of Functional Illiterates: 2,100

   This figure represents those who have not finished the 8th grade. The majority of people in this group are aged.

4. Number of Persons with Language Difficulties:

   A large number of adults, plus virtually all the aged in the area, have only limited or no ability to speak English. However, Area Liaison notes that the aged belong to a tight Italian-speaking community who are not much hindered by the language problem. Younger adults, including recent arrivals, are the persons for whom language difficulties present a real handicap. Also included in this group would be approximately 200 children of the new arrivals.

D. Employment:

Employed Persons:

1. Number of Employed in Low-paying occupations (Unskilled blue-collar workers): 3,371

Largest occupational groups according to 1960 Census is that of Clerk, Operators, and Private Household Workers.

Unemployed Persons:

1. Number of Unemployed Youths: 140

Percent of Total Population: 55%

2. Number of Unemployed Adults: 1,794

Percent of Total Population: 18%

The above igure of 1,794 was broken down by the Area Liaison into 544 adults (16-64) and 1,250 aged.

E. Economid Development:

1. Number of Low-income Families with Children: 474 (1964 Estimate)

North End Project Director estimated above figure. Included are all families whose income is inadequate to support their children. This figure would then include families with income over $3,000, but with a large number of children.

F. Health:

Children:

1. Rate of Infant Mortality: 23.7/1,000 Live Births

   Area Liaison comments that this is the lowest rate of infant mortality in the city.

2. Number of Children with Specific Health Deficiencies: No Estimate Available

Adults:

1. Tuberculosis Rates: No Estimate Available

   In the opinion of the Area Liaison, the number of cases of tuberculosis is "very low".

2. Incidence of Alcoholism: No Estimate Available

   Area Liaison states that there is no problem of alcoholism in the North End.

3. Drug Addiction: No Estimate Available

   Area Coordinator states that there is no drug addiction in the North End.

Elderly:

1. Tuberculosis Rates: No Estimate Available

   In the opinion of the Area Liaison, incidence of tuberculosis is "very low".

G. Social Services:

Juveniles:

1. Rate of Delinquency: 14 Commitments per 10,000

A commitment indicates incarceration, as ruled by the Youth Service Board. In the case of the North End area, 40 boys were "committed" last year which the Project Coordinator feels indicates a low rate of delinquency.

Families:

1. Number of chronic Welfare Recipients: 94 Families

79 of the above 94 families are on ADC and the remaining 15 are on general welfare.

2. Number of one-parent households: 212

According to last year's proposal, there is a high number of separations in this area due to financial and religious restrictions inhibiting divorce.

H. Other Needs:

(No Comments Made by Area Liaison)

III. LISTING AND RANKING OF TARGET GROUPS AND NEEDS:

A. Target Groups:

The Elderly:

This group is of primary concern because of the language problem, which makes it difficult for many to live and function in any society but the close-knit Italian-speaking community which they continue to limit themselves to. They need help in the areas of personal welfare, education, literacy training, transportation and interpreting aid for welfare transactions, medical aid and general education for dealing with their environment.

A need for recreational facilities is also seen to alleviate the problems of isolation and loneliness that the aged face.

Out-of-School Youths: (Aged 16-24)

Need for job counselling, retraining and placement, which will be provided by new Neighborhood Employment Center.

In-School Youths: (Elementary and High School)

Area Liaison describes a tremendous tutorial need in the area for children from disadvantaged households, guidance and tutoring for those from one-parent headed households, and tutoring for children of recent non-English speaking arrivals who have language and adjustment problems.

Pre-School Youths:

There is a need for tutoring of pre-school youths which will be met by a fully implemented Head Start Program.

Illiterate Adults: (Aged 25-64)

Many of these people are second generation Americans who have not gone further than the 8th grade. It is felt that they would benefit greatly from literacy training and from job counselling, retraining and placement programs to help them upgrade their income level.

B. Needs:

Tutorial:

From conferring with the Project Coordinator, it became apparent that there is a tremendous need in the area for tutoring programs. The school system in the area is reported to be backward. There are only two public schools; the rest are parochial and it is very difficult for students to get into good schools. In addition to tutoring for school-age children, citizenship and literacy training for the elderly and cultural enrichment programs and guidance for students and parents are seen as very essential.

Community Organization:

Because of the preponderance of elderly people in the area who tend to be isolated, and because of the isolation of the population as a whole from the Greater Boston community, there is a tremendous need for community organization. A special approach is needed since this is a close knit community which is apathetic to change. The main groups to be aimed at and worked with are the smaller clubs--religious and social, particularly--which are functioning separately without any inter-group cooperation and identity with the North End community as a whole. With the aid of a Community Organization Supervisor, it is hoped that these separated groups can be not only introduced to a greater proportion of North End population but be organized into a more functional

structure. Right now community organization in the North End revolves around the settlement houses, but it is felt that motivating the citizens of the North End toward neighborhood self-improvement via organization of existing groups, recreational programs, etc., is very essential if these people are to function as a community. Although the whole population is in need of organization, particular attention should be paid to adults and the elderly.

Employment:

As indicated by the establishment of a Neighborhood Employment Center, employment problems in the North End area are great. In addition to employment problems among the elderly, a great need in the area is for job retraining and placement for people between the ages of 16-64. Just as great a problem as employment is that of under-employment; which exists as an outgrowth of the low educational median. Vocational counselling, job training and shifting jobs for many would lead to income upgrading.

IV. INVENTORY OF 1966 PROGRAMS - COMPONENTS BY FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES:

A. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION:

1. North End Area Planning Action Council (APAC) and Neighborhood Action Center (NAC):

(a) Brief Description:

Functions are to be carried on at the Neighborhood Action Center (NAC--20 Parmenter Street) and the Senior Citizens Social Center (Joy Street) run by the Beacon Hill Civic Association. Community Organization in the North End is aimed primarily at the elderly and at existing neighborhood clubs and groups to give support, direction, and motivation toward community interest and self-improvement and to provide community cohesiveness. The following are vehicles for outreach and community organization by the NAC:

(1) Neighborhood Aides, who will go out into the community to contact the elderly and ascertain their needs.

(2) Social Center for Elderly where they receive refreshments and a chance to socialize.

(3) Accompanying, Interpreting and Advising Elderly with welfare transactions, medical problems, etc.

(4) Working with Established Clubs and Groups to get their interest in community self-improvement (i.e., building of skating rink, street cleaning, parking problems, rehabilitation).

(b) Sponsoring Agency: ABCD

(c) Funding Agency: OEO

(d) Total 1966 Funding: $43,648

(e) Number of Persons Served: 300 persons

(f) Number of Persons Eligible: Total population

B. CHILD DEVELOPMENT:

1. Head Start:

(a) Brief Description:
Cultural enrichment summer program. As of the time of this report, plans were being made for expanding into a year-'round program.

(b) Sponsoring Agency: ABCD

(c) Funding Agency: OEO

(d) Total 1966 Funding: $1567

(e) Number of Persons Served: 15

(f) Number of Persons Eligible: Estimate 200

C. EDUCATION

1. Teacher Training Program:

(a) Brief Description:
Training of college students by way of taking them into neighborhood schools and introducing them to the kind of situations they will be working under later on.

(b) Sponsoring Agency: ABCD

(c) Funding Agency: OEO

(d) Total 1966 Funding: One part-time staff person

(e) Number of Persons Served: (60 children tutored last summer)

2. North Bennett Street Industrial School:

(a) Brief Description:
This is a settlement house located in the North End offering a wide range of services to all age groups throughout the city. The School operates a summer day camp, recreational programs for children and teenagers, several vocational training programs for both school children and adults, and social programs for the elderly. There are no restrictions of age, sex or residence.

(b) Sponsoring Agency: United Community Services

(c) Funding Agency: United Fund(in addition, school receives small dues and fees from members)

(d) Total 1966 Funding: Not known

(e) Number of Persons Served: 1,000

(f) Number of Persons Eligible: city-wide

D. EMPLOYMENT

1. Job Training Development Program:

(a) Brief Description:
Operating from the Neighborhood Action Center, job retraining and placement. To be expanded into Neighborhood Employment Center.

(b) Sponsoring Agency: ABCD

(c) Funding Agency: OEO

(d) Total 1966 Funding: $5,800.00

(e) Number of Persons Served: 104 persons interviewed; 50 placed since program began.

(f) Number of Persons Eligible: 6,750

E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

1. Consumer Education and Credit Union:

(a) Brief Description:
Mostly concerned with education of consumer regarding food purchases, etc. Credit Union has not become established because of existing private neighborhood credit union. Entire program no longer functioning.

(b) Sponsoring Agency: ABCD

(c) Funding Agency: OEO

(d) Total 1966 Funding: _____

(e) Number of Persons Served: _____

(f) Number of Persons Eligible: 9500

F. HEALTH:

It appears that the only health services available in the area are city-wide programs such as a Well Baby Clinic.

G. SOCIAL SERVICES:

(SEE SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY UNDER COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION)

H. RECREATIONAL:

1. North End Union - Settlement House:

(a) Brief Description:
Recreation and informal education classes

(b) Sponsoring Agency: North End Union

(c) Funding Agency: United Fund, with partial funding by the Benevolent Fraternity of Unitarian Churches.

(d) Total 1966 Funding: Not Available

(e) Number of Persons Served: 1,100

(f) Number of Persons Eligible: Entire Neighborhood

2. Christopher Columbus Youth Center:

(a) Brief Description:

Gym and Craft classes with large hall for social affairs.

(b) Sponsoring Agency:

(c) Funding Agency: Neighborhood raises funds via dinners, raffles, rentals, etc.

(d) Total 1966 Funding: Not Available

(e) Number of Persons Served: 300

(f) Number of Persons Eligible: Entire Neighborhood

V. INVENTORY OF 1966 PROGRAMS - FUNCTIONAL SYSTEMS:

A. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION:

1. Number of Programs: 3 (ABCD)
2. Funding: *
3. Number of Persons Served: _____

B. EDUCATION:

1. Number of Programs: 2 (1-ABCD; 1-non-ABCD)
2. Funding: *
3. Number of Persons Served: 1,060 (60-ABCD; 1,000 Non-ABCD)

C. EMPLOYMENT:

1. Number of Programs: 1 (ABCD)
2. Funding: *
3. Number of Persons Served: 104 Interviewed; 50 Placed

D. RECREATION:

1. Number of Programs: 3 (Non-ABCD)
2. Funding: *
3. Number of Persons Served: _____

---

*Concerning Funding: Project Director indicated that because of the amount of involvement with private agencies, it would be very difficult to estimate separately the cost of these programs.

VI. EVALUATION OF 1966 PROGRAMS FUNDED BY OEO:

A. SENIOR CITIZEN'S PROGRAM:

1. Administrative Efficiency:

Area Coordinator evaluates the administration of the Aged Program as "very good."

2. Direct Effect on Persons Served:

The program was described as "successful" by the Area Coordinator in that it effectively helped participants with their problems. A recreation and referral center was opened for the aged in West End.

3. "Multiplier Effect":

Area Coordinator states that since North End Community Action Program is a new organization which has been operating with a partial staff for few months, there has not as yet been a chance to mobilize non-ABCD resources. Area Coordinator does cite the addition of the Senior Citizens Center on Beacon Hill as effecting a positive change in the program.

B. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION: (North End Area Planning Action Council and Neighborhood Action Center)

1. Administrative Efficiency:

Area Coordinator comments that since the Community Organization Program has just begun, it"needs constant work and improvement." Area Coordinator does not state that there are any specific administrative problems at this early state of the organization operation.

2. Direct Effect on Persons Served:

A newsletter is being produced and distributed from the Neighborhood Action Center office in-informing citizens of activities, job opportunities, community news, and news interest items in the neighborhood. While there was no statement on this made by the Area Coordinator, the Project Coordinator expressed great pride in this creation and the author feels that this in itself can be a cohesive factor in community relations both among the citizens in drumming up interest and in informing them of the Neighborhood Center's programs and activities.

3. "Multiplier Effect":

The referral and recreation center for the aged can perhaps again be cited as including a change in community structure.

C. EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM:

1. Administrative Efficiency:

The Area Coordinator feels that administrative changes could be in order in the Employment Program, particularly in view of the size of the population which could be served. However, these changes will be instituted with the establishment of the new Neighborhood Employment Center under the Manpower division.

2. Direct Effect on Persons Served:

According to the Area Coordinator and the Project Director, this program has been most effective and has helped many persons (50) to find employment. They feel that the planned establishment of a Neighborhood Employment Center was certainly needed in this area and will be most successful.

3. "Multiplier Effect":

Area Coordinator made no additional comments.

VII. EVALUATION OF TOTAL PROGRAM SYSTEM:

A. Effective Linkage Between Programs:

Area Coordinator indicates that there is effective linkage between all programs and the various agencies in the North End. Also, Area Coordinator, reports good linkage between all programs and the various subdivisions at ABCD.

B. Program System Emphasis:

The Area Coordinator reports that in keeping with the needs of the neighborhood there is "correct emphasis on the aged and employment programs" and on community organization and outreach.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS:

Area Coordinator stated that there has been very good response to the Aged Program and that since this is the most important program in this area, program should be continued and enlarged.

A. Community Organization:

According to the Project Coordinator and the Area Coordinator, the problems and needs in community organization in the North End have been identified and progress has been made in mapping out programs and putting them into effect. However, it is the feeling of the Area Coordinator that Community Organization "must be made stronger and become a more integral part of the program."

B. Employment Program:

Area Coordinator states that any limitations that are discernible in the employment at this time will be "taken care of by the Employment Center."

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